

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 7, 14, 18, and 25.

Please amend claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, 12, 15-17, 19, 21-23, and 26-28 as follows. Attached as an appendix is a Version of Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made.

1. (Amended) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee via a factoring agreement by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller.

3. (Amended) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller;

AB wherein the financial institution is a factoring entity, a bank or a credit assurance company; and

wherein the guarantee is a single transaction factoring agreement.

4. (Amended) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller;

wherein the financial institution is a factoring entity, a bank or a credit assurance company; and

wherein the guarantee is a no-loan factoring agreement.

a³
5. (Amended) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller;

wherein the financial institution is a factoring entity, a bank or a credit assurance company; and

wherein the guarantee is a loan factoring agreement.

a4
8. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one seller applies online for the guarantee by the financial institution prior to posting the goods or services for sale at the auction.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the one or more buyers applies online for a credit check prior to bidding on the goods or services for sale at the auction.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller is paid to the auction manager and/or financial institution.

12. (Amended) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

a5
providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller;

wherein the at least one seller applies for the guarantee by the financial institution prior to posting the goods or services for sale at the auction.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the at least one of the seller applies online for the guarantee by the financial institution.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein at least one of the one or more buyers applies online for a credit check prior to bidding on the goods or services for sale at the auction.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller is paid to the auction manager and/or the financial institution.

19. (Amended) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer;

providing a guarantee via a factoring agreement by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller; and

providing the winning buyer with a period of time in which to inspect the goods or services before payment is due.

21. (Amended) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer;

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller; and

providing the winning buyer with a period of time in which to inspect the goods or services before payment is due;

wherein the financial institution is a factoring entity, a bank or a credit assurance company; and

wherein the guarantee is a single transaction factoring agreement.

28
22. (Amended) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer;

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller; and

providing the winning buyer with a period of time in which to inspect the goods or services before payment is due;

wherein the financial institution is a factoring entity, a bank or a credit assurance company; and

wherein the guarantee is a no-loan factoring agreement.

23. (Amended) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

ax providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer;

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller; and

providing the winning buyer with a period of time in which to inspect the goods or services before payment is due;

wherein the financial institution is a factoring entity, a bank or a credit assurance company; and

wherein the guarantee is a loan factoring agreement.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the at least one seller applies online for the guarantee by the financial institution prior to posting the goods or services for sale at the auction.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein at least one of the one or more buyers applies online for a credit check prior to bidding on the goods or services for sale at the auction.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller is paid to the auction manager and/or financial institution.

Please add new claims 31-39 as follows:

31. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the guarantee by the financial institution extends to the auction and a second auction.

32. (New) A method of operating an auctioning system, comprising:

conducting a plurality of auctions, wherein each auction
comprises the steps of,

providing at least one seller that posts goods or
services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or
services;

conducting the auction wherein the one or more buyers
bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee via a factoring agreement by a
financial institution to pay at least a portion of the
payment due from the winning buyer to the seller.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the guarantee
is provided to the seller in each auction in the plurality of
auctions.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the plurality
of auctions are conducted simultaneously.

35. (New) A method of providing an auction,
comprising:

providing a plurality of factoring agreements to a seller, wherein the seller posts goods or services to be sold at the auction, and wherein each factoring agreement guarantees the seller payment of at least a portion of the funds due from a sale in the auction;

entering the seller into a factoring agreement;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services; and

conducting the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services.

a¹⁰
36. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the plurality of factoring agreements includes a single transaction factoring agreement, a no-loan factoring agreement, and a loan factoring agreement.

37. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of providing a plurality of factoring agreements to a seller is facilitated online.

38. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of binding the seller to a factoring agreement is facilitated online.

Q¹⁰ 39. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the steps of
providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;
and conducting the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on
the posted goods or services are facilitated online.
